A reason to stay in

This year's Lavender Film Festival keeps its edge with half-brotherly love, three-minute kisses and more

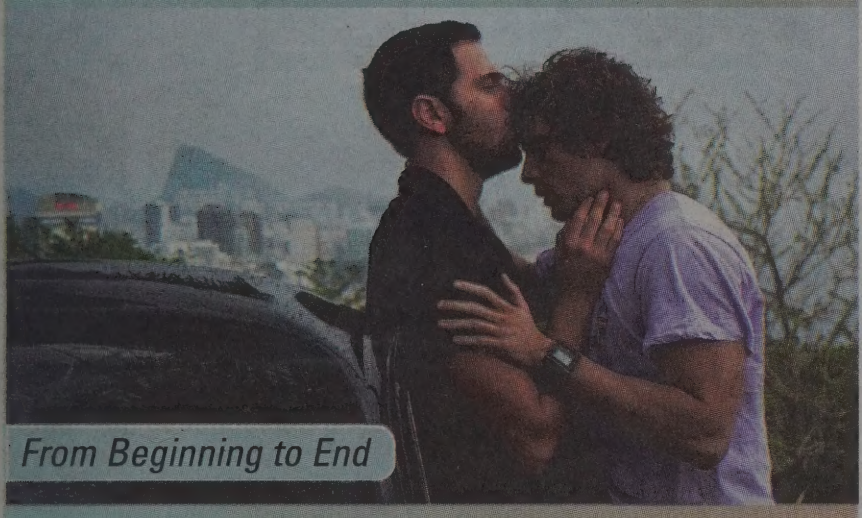
The Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival follows up 2009's 10-year anniversary celebration with an even better film selection in 2010. As evidenced in the blogosphere, this year's nine features are sought-after films on the gay and lesbian festival circuit. Even the subject range of short films is impressive.

However, if you can't make it to all the films over the weekend, try to make it to at least these three:

From Beginning to End, Friday, 7:40 p.m.: Opening night starts off with this Brazilian drama about two half-brothers who fall in love and spend their lives together. Though the subject may seem taboo, director Aluizio Abranches treats it delicately and reveals the natural oddities of love that we all experience through this unusual romance, which becomes even more complicated when one brother leaves for three years in Russia.

Abranches' storytelling skills immerse the audience in the slow-moving progression from innocent childhood love into adult sexual love. The obstacles and complications that arise seem natural to the story and make for interesting observations on what healthy love really is. Quite possibly the best film in the festival in terms of acting and story, it sets a high bar for the weekend.

Elena Undone, Saturday, 4:30 p.m.: *Elena Undone* made Hollywood headlines



From Beginning to End

by setting the record for longest on-screen kiss shot in one take: 3 minutes, 24 seconds. (It was previously held by a heterosexual couple in the 1941 film, *You're in the Army Now.*)

The film is riddled with stereotypes and conventions seen in many lesbian films — for example, the artistic lesbian falling for the conservative, but also secretively artistic, churchgoing woman. But by the time the story gets to the kiss, somehow writer/director Nicole Conn has captured enough emotion to trap the audience in the moment, so much so that the kiss doesn't seem long enough. The chemistry between Necar Zadegan and Traci Dinwiddie cements *Elena Undone* as *the* lesbian film of the festival.

The Stranger in Us, Saturday, 7 p.m.: Looking for a more interactive experience? *The Stranger in Us* will have you seeking answers about everything from plot to filming techniques, and director Scott Boswell and actors Rapheal Barker, Scott Cox and Adam Perez will be around for a Q&A after the film.

The Stranger in Us is about a small-town boy who moves to San Francisco, only to find the experience to not be what he intended: His boyfriend isn't the lovely guy he seemed, and a hustler turns out to be a friend. Taking place over the course of a year, this film does not move linearly, instead bouncing around with a timeline at the bottom as the only indicator of where in the story you are.

Unlike the other two films, *The Stranger in Us* is heavily rooted in the indie film movement, with an always-unsteady camera and reliance on tight close-ups to express emotion. If that's not your thing, it's probably best to stay away; if you like that style, run to the theater.

— *Sarah White*

CAPSULE

11th annual Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival

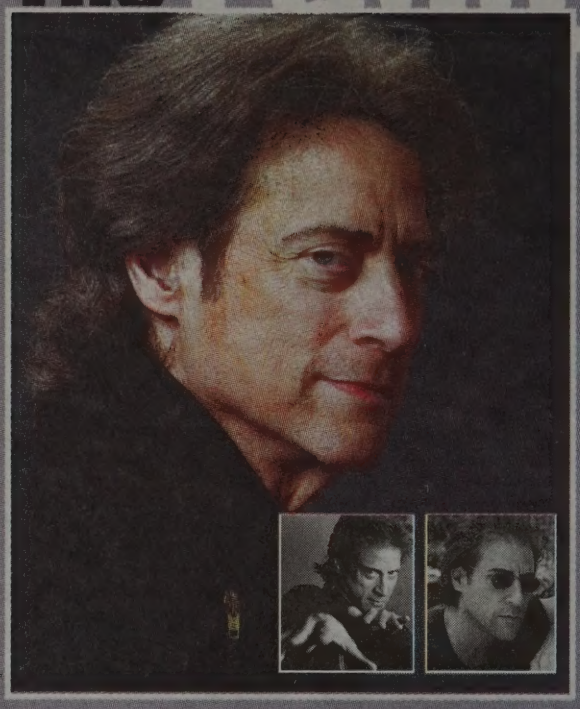
Opening reception Friday, Sept. 24, 6 p.m.; festival runs through Sunday, Sept. 26.

CC's Cornerstone Arts Center, 825 N. Cascade Ave.

Tickets: $10 per film; passes run $25-$75. For more, visit ppliff.org.

The funny thing about

Even after being question he's he shares the truth



Richard Lewis is a man who needs no introduction, so why give him one?

Behind a famously rapid-fire, stream-of-consciousness style of comedy, Lewis has made countless late-night television appearances, performs regularly on HBO's *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, and will appear in the film *VAMPS* in 2011. Enough said.

Besides, give him a couple minutes, and Lewis will tell you anything you might want to know about him, anyway. If there's not enough self-disclosure (and self-doubt) for you below, visit csindy.com for the exhaustion-inducing full transcript.

***Indy:* You started in comedy at age 23 and turned 63 this June, which makes this 40 years in the business. ... What went wrong?**

RL: What went *wrong*? In what way? What went wrong in terms of my life, you mean? I think that's a good thing, don't you?

Can I just say something? That was the single worst warm-up question I've ever heard. It was dyslexic, it was psychotic — I mean, I just came off a movie set — wait a minute, hold on a second — you got me so discombobulated with that question — hold on a minute, can you hear me on this phone?

***Indy:* Sure.**

RL: This phone, the batteries suck. I'm going to call you on my cell phone right now.

[Hangs up. I'm pretty sure he's not going to call back, then my phone actually rings.]

RL: Here's the deal. First of all, how dare you? *How dare you*? Number two, I did just a great — I'm going to boast. You're for which is very unlike me.

***Indy:* The film was m I throw it out?**

RL: No — *no*! I'm af

***Indy:* It's good, you'll**

RL: If you want to go to get the wrong impressi act. I ramble, but fine — from shooting this movie ing *Curb* Monday, so I'm

***Indy:* Now you're ste**

RL: No ... you said, " came off a movie with A Silverstone and Sigourne the phone with Jonathan and Albert Brooks, and loser. What the hell kinc

***Indy:* No, I —**

RL: I don't want you t of me. I paid my dues. I I deserve this. I did a tho *Tonight Shows* — You g *What went wrong*! You're

***Indy:* My second que playing an ACLU lawy**

RL: Do you have to n Because I might have a

***Indy:* I didn't numbe on them.**

RL: What if you start

***Indy:* You're playing your fans will have trou Lewis the attorney?**

RL: No ... if I was a va only one in the movie tha really pissed. I mean, I e- and said, "One of the rea because I thought you we e-mailed me back and sai

***Indy:* When you app room does Larry Davi improv or develop your**

RL: None. Except — are already written out, I "Here's what the scene is script. Everyone from La the entire show. There's

CAPSULE

Richard Lewis

Wednesday, Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m.
Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, 10 S. Parkside Drive
Tickets: $25-$38; available at stargazerstheatre.com or 476-2200.

Oct. 1-2, 7:15 and 9:45 p.m.
Comedy Works South at the Landmark, 5345 Landmark Place, Greenwood Village
Tickets: $30; visit comedyworks.com.

Visit richardlewisonline.com for more.